

REMARKS

This Amendment is intended to respond fully to the non-final Office Action mailed in this application on May 26, 2005. In this Office Action, claims 14-24 were allowed, claims 1, 2, 6, 9-11, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,341,350 ("Wemmer") and claims 12, 13 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wemmer. The Examiner kindly indicated that claims 3-5, 7 and 8 would be in allowable form if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the above-listed amendments and the following remarks:

A. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6 and 25-28 are hereby canceled without prejudice, and thus, the rejections thereto is moot. The cancellations of claims 1, 2, 6 and 25-28 should not be construed as admissions by Applicant that the aforementioned rejections are proper or have merit. Indeed, Applicant reserves the right to file these claim and traverse these rejection in a properly filed continuing application.

B. Allowable Subject Matter: Claim Objections

In this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 5 and 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base independent claim (1) and any dependent claims, and therefore, are now presented in allowable form. As such, claims 3, 4, 5 and 7 have not been amended for any reasons related to the patentability over the cited art of record, but rather have been rewritten based on the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter recited therein. Indeed, rewritten claims 3, 4, 5 and 7 recite each of the same limitations as originally filed with the present application; and thus, these claims have not been subjected to a "narrowing" amendment.

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and, thus, is also believed to be presented in allowable form.

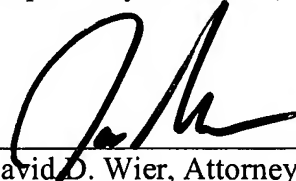
Claims 9-12 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 7 and thus, for at least these reasons, are also believed to be presented in allowable form.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12, which in turn, as noted above, now depends from allowable claim 7. For at least this reason, claim 13 is also believed to be presented in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

This Amendment and the accompanying remarks are believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action mailed May 26, 2005. Claims 3-24 remain pending in the application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, he/she is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns. A check in the amount of \$600.00 is enclosed herewith to cover the addition of 3 independent claims (although 4 independent claims are hereby added in this Amendment, independent claim 25 has been canceled, thus only leaving 3 independent claims not yet paid for). No other fees are believed due. However, if this is not the case, please charge any additional fee, including extension fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. Alternatively, please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,



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